

SB 245

My name is Bill Kogelschatz. I am an elevator mechanic by trade and currently am the Business Manager of the IUEC Local 85 here in Lansing. I have been involved in the elevator industry for 30 years.

Thank you for allowing me the time to speak in opposition to Senate Bill 245.

Elevators are powerful by nature and can be unforgiving when they malfunction.

Elevator Codes are written by experts in the elevator industry and are written with specific safety, inspection and testing requirement based on the application of the equipment.

Proposed changes to the existing Rules for a Private Residence, Inclined Elevators would allow an Inclined Elevator designed for use in a single family residence, to be used by up to twenty residential dwellings. While I understand the underlying reasoning behind this proposed legislation, I feel that in doing so we are putting the citizens and visitors of the State of Michigan at risk. Currently, in our state, residential elevator equipment is only inspected upon installation and that is it. What happens after that is basically a "riders beware" situation.

The Michigan State, Elevator Safety Board and State Elevator Division have been in existence for many years and have determined that the equipment in question should be regulated. A commercial elevator is inspected by a licensed elevator Journey Person every ninety days, tested with no load every year to insure all safety devices are operating properly and tested with full capacity very five years. Also, the State Elevator Safety Division would inspect the unit every year.

The unit we are talking about is out in the elements all year long. That, along with additional wear and tear of this unit is not safe in the capacity requested. Such a unit would require being redesigned and meet State and Federal code to protect the safety of the public.

A Private Residence Elevator has different design characteristics than Units defined for commercial use. If you research the American National Standards, American Society of Mechanical Engineers commonly referred to as ASME A17.1, Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators, Part 5, Section 5.1 – Inclined Elevators and Section 5.4 – Private Residence Inclined Elevators, you will note that structural requirements are different for Private Residence versus Commercial Inclined Elevators. Reasoning for the difference is that a single family Private Residence will use the device less frequently and be more familiar with its safe operation than when twenty residential dwellings begin to use a single residential unit. The unit life expectancy and the familiarity of the end user with the particular safety features of that unit dwindle when more people access and use the unit. When Engineering criteria at a national and international level recognize the need for a piece of equipment used in or at the home to be different than that of a commercial piece of equipment you must review the differences to ensure the equipment is the same and of course in this case it is not.

I would like to provide a CD of an interview of a family who lost their 6 year old child on a home elevator in a Condo that was rented. They like most people just assumed the equipment was safe, *unfortunately*, for their family that wasn't true. Please consider watching this video before you vote to weaken the safety requirement our state currently has.

Thank You for your reconsideration of this topic as it is one involving the Future Safety for the people of the State of Michigan.